Accountability Report

2015–2016

Aboriginal Affairs

NOVA SCOTIA

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Accountability Statement

The accountability report of the Office of Aboriginal Affairs for the year ended March 31, 2016 is prepared pursuant to the Finance Act and government policies and guidelines. These authorities require the reporting of outcomes against the Office of Aboriginal Affairs Statement of Mandate for the fiscal year that just ended. The reporting of the Office of Aboriginal Affairs outcomes necessarily includes estimates, judgments and opinions by Office of Aboriginal Affairs management.

We acknowledge that this Accountability Report is the responsibility of the Office of Aboriginal Affairs management. The report is, to the extent possible, a complete and accurate representation of outcomes relative to the goals and priorities set out in the Office of Aboriginal Affairs 2015-2016 Statement of Mandate.

Original signed by

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Premier Stephen McNeil

Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

Original signed by

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Julie Towers, Chief Executive Officer

Office of Aboriginal Affairs

Message from Minister and CEO

We are pleased to present the Nova Scotia Office of Aboriginal Affairs accountability report for 2015-2016.The accountability report is an opportunity to highlight departmental accomplishments while responding to commitments listed in the 2015-16 statement of mandate.

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs (OAA) continues to work closely with the Aboriginal population of Nova Scotia, promoting a collaborative approach in responding to challenges faced and opportunities for growth in Aboriginal communities. Aboriginal Affairs leads rights based negotiations related to Aboriginal and treaty rights with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and the Federal Government; coordinates and facilitates consultation between the Provincial Government and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia; and provides strategic policy advice to government while exploring options to help foster social and economic prosperity in Aboriginal communities.

Over the past year we continued to take a coordinated and collaborative approach in providing our core services and are pleased with progress made in several areas. We continued to work closely with Aboriginal communities and leadership with a goal of strengthening relationships across the province. In June 2015, the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs met with Executive Council for the sixth time to discuss and share ideas around issues of mutual importance.

We continued to provide policy advice while collaborating with partners across government on intergovernmental and multi-lateral Aboriginal issues. In 2015, over 120 public servants completed training around the Duty to Consult or Understanding the Aboriginal Context in Nova Scotia.

The release of the final report of the National Truth and Reconciliation Commission and their 94 Calls to Action marks a major milestone for Canada. Nova Scotia is committed to pursuing reconciliation alongside our Aboriginal population, as well as our partners in the federal government. Reconciliation should be based on trust and mutual respect, therefore we feel a collaborative approach in responding to these calls to action is necessary.

At the 2015 Treaty Day Celebration, I was honoured to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Treaty Education with the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq on behalf of the province. Collaborating with the Mi'kmaq on Treaty Education will provide all Nova Scotians with the opportunity to build a strong foundation of knowledge on our shared treaty relationship.

The challenges faced by Nova Scotia's Aboriginal population today are complex and long standing; responding to these challenges require a coordinated approach and expertise in a number of subjects. In 2016-17 we will continue to collectively pursue solutions to these challenges in promoting an energetic and thriving Nova Scotia for all.

Financial Results

Office of Aboriginal Affairs			
	2015 – 2016 Estimate	2015 – 2016 Actuals	2016 – 2017 Estimate
Salary & Employee Benefits	*1,462,000*	*1,574,425*	*1,572,000*
Operating Costs	*785,000*	*424,219*	*639,000*
Grants & Contributions	*1,228,000*	*1,479,099*	*1,263,000*
Total Gross Departmental Expenses	*3,475,000*	*3,477,743*	*3,474,000*
Additional Information:			
Ordinary Recoveries (Chargeable to Other Depts.)	*(8000)*	*(13,797)*	*(7000)*
TCA Purchase Requirements	*500,000*	*455,118*	*1,000,000*
Total Net Departmental Expenses	*3,467,000*	*3,463,946*	*3,467,000*
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)	*15.50*	*14.92*	*15.50*

1. Collaborative Partnerships to improve social and economic prosperity of Aboriginal communities We will continue to work to identify opportunities to improve social and economic prosperity for Nova Scotia's Aboriginal people and communities, which will both increase participation of Aboriginal people and also strengthen the provincial economy. Economic development led by Aboriginal communities is inherently focused on building social enterprise and investing in communities. We will continue to enhance economic development, education and employment opportunities through collaboration with a wide range of provincial departments, federal counterparts and other partners, leveraging limited funding toward common outcomes that support OneNS economic goals. We support innovative initiatives that address complex gaps and emerging opportunities related to community capacity, economic development, employment and skill development, all of which strive to enhance the prosperity of Aboriginal people and all Nova Scotians.	
Measure	**Outcomes Achieved**
Departments and agencies satisfaction with advice and support provided by OAA	Departments and partner organizations satisfaction with advice and support of OAA is measured in a periodic satisfaction survey which allows respondents to evaluate and comment on all of our core services. Partners were asked how satisfied they were with OAA's coordination and policy advice. 73% were either very satisfied or satisfied, 20% neutral and 7% (1 of 19 respondents) dissatisfied.
Leverage value achieved through strategic funding on collaborative social and/or economic initiatives	OAA continues to work collaboratively with funding partners where possible to pool resources for major initiatives. OAA meets with federal and provincial colleagues to explore areas of joint interest regularly through a small sharing group. OAA delivers the Aboriginal Community Development Fund (ACDF) which supports community-led initiatives with economic and business development outcomes and benefits for Nova Scotia's Aboriginal people. The fund is intended to leverage other resources within and outside of government to support projects and initiatives that are

	community-led and First Nation. Some examples of projects funded in 2015-16 where funds were leveraged include: • Paqtnkek completed an opportunity readiness study which identified possible areas of future commercial development and economic growth in relation to highway development in the area. The project was cost-shared between Paqtnkek, OAA and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). • Glooscap First Nation completed a greening study which resulted in many options for sustainable development of their major infrastructure and commercial development project, Glooscap Landing. The study was funded by Glooscap First Nation, OAA and INAC. • In collaboration with the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Department of Communities Culture and Heritage (CCH), the Native Women's Association of Nova Scotia and Leave Out Violence (LOVE) Nova Scotia, OAA provided assistance in the development of a Girls Roundtable event that allowed First Nation girls a chance to share their stories and be heard by both Provincial and Mi'kmaw governments. • In partnership with Status of Women and Nova Scotia Native Women's Association, OAA supported the hosting of a visioning session in November 2015 which brought together 30 female Aboriginal leaders to explore an effective path forward related to ending violence against Aboriginal women and girls. When initiatives that require funding do not fit into OAA's programing or mandate, OAA works with partners to try to identify alternative funding sources.
Specific feedback and exceptional items noted	OAA continues to Chair the Senior Officials Advisory Committee on Aboriginal Affairs. The committee which meets bi-monthly is comprised of representatives across provincial departments. It is a forum for information sharing and also allows for coordination with other departments around major issues. In 2015-16 there were a number of sub-committees formed from the Senior Officials Committee to deal with complex issues that touch multiple departments, in 2015 committees were formed to

	deal with the following issues: • The Truth and Reconciliation Commission - 94 Calls to Action • Private sector growth in Nova Scotia OAA provided leadership and support to government departments and agencies involved with the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum (Tripartite Forum) and the Made-in-Nova Scotia negotiation process. Tripartite Forum working committees (Health, Education, Economic Development, Social, Culture and Heritage, Justice, Sports and Recreation) are co-chaired by provincial representatives and are supported through the active participation of more than 30 provincial employees from across Nova Scotia. OAA participates in all seven working committees, and provides guidance on overall Tripartite Forum governance and activities through the Executive, Officials, Steering and Project Review committees. OAA was a representative on a steering committee for the Ukjmuljin Project. This project's aim is to foster and support sustained employment for members of the urban Aboriginal community who have a history in the criminal justice system. The program was funded through the Tripartite Forum Project Fund as a collaborative project between the Economic Development and Justice working committees (OAA is represented on both of these committees). In 2015-16, research was completed and a curriculum was developed for this project which is intended to be available for delivery in the coming year. A collaboration between the Tripartite Forum Economic Development Working Committee and the Social Working Committee saw the development of a Social Enterprise Toolkit. The project was approved and progress was made throughout the year, currently the committee is looking into funding for printing and publishing costs. The toolkit should be available across Nova Scotia's Aboriginal communities in the coming year. OAA works with Labor and Advanced Education, the Nova Scotia Community College, the federal government, training organizations (Mi'kmaq Economic Benefits Office and

	the Mi'kmaq Employment & Training Secretariat) and private industry to promote targeted Aboriginal training and employment initiatives. The Nova Scotia Committee on Aboriginal participation in the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy is a good example of one such initiative.

2. Effective coordination and strategic policy advice to Nova Scotia government

A key focus of OAA is to provide effective coordination and policy advice to provincial departments and agencies. There is also significant dialogue and interface with federal agencies at national and regional levels that are involved with Aboriginal issues, support and mandates.

The key to designing effective and sustainable corporate practices and solutions is made possible by the support and involvement of other departments and agencies. Addressing Aboriginal issues and opportunities involves a significant level of coordination as the issues are typically complex and multi-jurisdictional. OAA works to coordinate potentially differing departmental interests or positions through internal coordination, communication, collaboration and development of common positions.

Measure	Outcomes Achieved
Departments and agencies satisfaction with advice and support provided by OAA	OAA's satisfaction survey allows partners to comment on and evaluate all of OAA's core functions. When asked if they would agree that OAA provides effective coordination and strategic policy advice to the Nova Scotia government 89% either agreed or strongly agreed, the remaining 11% responded neutral, 0% disagreed with this fact.
Specific feedback and exceptional items noted	2015 saw the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) release their final report on the Indian Residential School System. The report contains a series of 94 recommendations designed to address a broad range of issues raised throughout the investigation process, including health, justice, education and treaty enforcement. OAA has led a coordinated provincial approach to understanding and responding to these recommendations. A sub-committee of representatives from departments that are distinctly connected to the 94 recommendations has been formed from the Senior Officials Advisory Committee on Aboriginal Affairs. This committee has been identifying areas of focus, where departments can work together, how to best liaise with the various groups involved in the process and more, this committee will

	continue its work into 2016. Looking forward to 2016, the Executive Director of OAA will sit on a Tripartite Committee along with representatives from the Mi'kmaq community and the federal government to review the calls to action and attempt to prioritize these recommendations based on the needs and priorities of the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq community. The work of the Tripartite group will direct the work of our provincial sub-committee formed from Senior Officials, ensuring that provincial actions support the priorities of the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq. OAA works closely with the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs on Federal / Provincial / Territorial initiatives that touch on the Aboriginal population. Specific examples for 2015 include providing support for the annual meeting between the National Aboriginal Organizations and Premiers, Aboriginal Affairs Working Group (AAWG), and providing briefing information on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report in advance of the Council of Federation Meeting which took place in July of 2015. OAA continues to support the Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development Integrated Research Program (AAEDIRP). AAEDIRP conducts research and builds research capacity related to Aboriginal economic development. A major piece of research completed through AAEDIRP in 2015 was the report on Indigenous Economic Performance in Atlantic Canada. In 2015, an inter-departmental Aboriginal Education Committee was formed from representatives of Labour and Advanced Education, Education and Early Childhood Development, the Department of Community Services, OAA and representatives from Nova Scotia's Universities, Colleges and private career colleges to inform and advise Nova Scotia government departments and divisions on issues relating to Aboriginal public, community, and post-secondary education. OAA provided ongoing advice and support to the First Nations gaming executive team (established by OAA, CCH and Nova Scotia Provincial Lotteries and Casino Commission) to work across government departments with the Mi'kmaq to update First Nation Gaming Agreements with the 13 Mi'kmaq bands, respond to emerging

	issues, and explore governance options for oversight and management of the file. OAA receives regular requests from other departments and the Minister's Office for information on specific issues. In the last year, OAA worked with Labour and Advanced Education to analyse and provide background information to support work looking into the OneNS Goal which aims to bring the employment rate of First Nations as well as that of African Nova Scotians equal to the provincial average. OAA worked with the Department of Health and Wellness to engage First Nation communities regarding provincially funded Continuing Care services and the needs of First Nations. This group will continue to look for solutions to the many issues related to health care on-reserve.

3. Coordinated approach to ensure government meets its legal consultation obligations

With a complex and evolving legal landscape, it is critical that government understands and meets its legal obligations with respect to consultation with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia on decisions and projects that may have an adverse impact on Aboriginal and treaty rights. We will continue to coordinate provincial consultation efforts, providing consistent advice, training and tools to ensure that provincial departments are effectively supported in leading consultations with the Mi'kmaq. This work includes implementation of a new Consultation Policy.

Measure	Outcomes Achieved
Consultation Terms of Reference	Effective, transparent and efficient consultation between the Provincial government and the Mi'kmaq is made possible by having the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Consultation Terms of Reference (ToR) in place. The ToR outlines how consultation between the Mi'kmaq, Canada and Nova Scotia should happen for government decisions, approvals and activities that may have an adverse impact on proven or asserted Aboriginal or Treaty rights. This year OAA's Consultation Division continued its review of the Consultation Terms of Reference as mandated by the Made in Nova Scotia Negotiations Process and reported its findings to the main table in June 2016.
Canada-NS MOU on Consultation Cooperation	OAA's Consultation Division participated in a one day joint training event with the Federal Government on September 29, 2015. We also co-hosted with Environment Canada the annual meeting of the Atlantic Consultation Community of Practice meeting in Halifax in June 2015.
New consultation policy	OAA released a new Consultation Policy on April 30, 2015. The policy has been well-received by provincial representatives, the Mi'kmaq and by federal colleagues. The consultation policy is available on OAA's website.

Department specific guidelines for consultation	A number of department specific guidelines for consultation have been developed in the past which now require updating and approval in order to better reflect the new Consultation Policy. Updates to department specific guidelines have yet to be finalized. However, OAA has engaged in significant department specific training with key departments which is an important step in completing this process. This work will continue in 2016-17.
Consultation advisors assist departments in maintain their consultation records	This was achieved through work with key Departmental officials. For a major litigation file, OAA was able to work with Departments in order to compile the extensive consultation record required for the court process.
Legal risk associated with consultation is managed effectively	There was one legal action commenced this year and OAA is confident that the consultation record compiled on that file is comprehensive. The Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs has expressed a high degree of confidence in the consultation process as was made evident during the recent review of the Consultation process. Maintaining confidence in the process is key to managing the legal risks associated with consultation. We continue discussions with Sipekne'katik on the consultation process in order to build more confidence in the process and in April 2015, OAA provided funding to Sipekne'katik FN to allow them to explore ways of increasing community involvement in the consultation process. OAA has had success in developing and maintaining an effective working relationship with the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs and the Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office (KMKNO). This relationship enables fluid discussions for those provincial departments seeking consultation with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia. Consultation Advisors hold regular bi-monthly update meetings with KMKNO staff and federal department staff to provide updates on all active consultation files. To assist

	the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs participating effectively and meaningfully in consultations with the Province, in 2012-2013 OAA reached an agreement with the KMKNO that more than doubled its provincial funding to $500,000 annually for four years (a total commitment of $2 million).
Relevant departments are consulted effectively	OAA met regularly with departments to discuss consultation issues and every Department had a consultation advisor assigned specifically to their files. OAA provides feedback to departments on an ongoing basis as requested. OAA offers training on the Duty to Consult through the Public Service Commission (PSC), dates offered can be found in the PSC course calendar. Departmental specific consultation training is provided by OAA on an ongoing basis.

4. Positive and productive relationship through negotiations with Canada and the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq

The Made-in-Nova Scotia Negotiations Process is a tri-partite negotiation process involving the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia, the Province of Nova Scotia, and Canada. This process seeks to negotiate mutually beneficial arrangements that help achieve reconciliation and provide clarity on Aboriginal and treaty rights of the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia. Specifically Nova Scotia's overarching goals in this process are enhanced legal clarity on Mi'kmaq Aboriginal and treaty rights, including title, reduced social and economic disparity for the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and improved and stable relations between the province and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia.

Measure	Outcomes Achieved
All parties remain committed to the 2007 Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Framework Agreement and to making progress, including interim arrangements, on priority negotiation topics as they work toward rights agreements that provide clarity on the manner in which the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia will exercise their Aboriginal and treaty rights respecting land, resources and governance.	OAA represents the province in the Made-in-Nova Scotia Process, which has been in place since the signing of the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Framework Agreement in 2007. The purpose of the process is to reach negotiated arrangements that address issues related to Mi'kmaq Aboriginal and treaty rights, including Aboriginal title, and Mi'kmaq self-governance, as an alternative to using litigation to resolve rights issues. The Provincial goals for negotiations are enhanced clarity on Mi'kmaq rights, title and treaty-related issues; improved and stable relations; and reduced social and economic disparity for the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia. In 2015-16 the Made-in-Nova Scotia Negotiations Process focused on identifying creative and innovative ways the parties can make tangible, incremental progress on Mi'kmaq Aboriginal and treaty rights. This work applied the parties' perspectives discussed during Douglas Eyford's review of Canada's Comprehensive Land Claims Policy, which is the policy that guides federal participation in comprehensive Aboriginal land and resource rights negotiations. The Province is optimistic this will establish a renewed focus on reaching tangible arrangements that clarify and meaningfully implement Mi'kmaq Aboriginal and treaty rights in the spirit of reconciliation.

	OAA will also continue to seek interim progress on priority topics, such as wildlife, forestry and land, while developing a long-term understanding of rights and governance issues.

5. Enhanced public awareness and appreciation of the Mi'kmaq and Aboriginal history and culture

Greater awareness of Mi'kmaq and Aboriginal culture and history provides a foundation for positive relations. OAA plays a leadership and coordination role across provincial government to ensure that departments have the tools and information they need to support greater internal and external awareness and appreciation of Aboriginal people in the province. OAA also supports provincial and municipal departments seeking advice and understanding of Aboriginal context and voluntary engagement with local groups on important projects, initiatives and efforts. In addition, OAA coordinates and supports provincial engagement at public events and activities that promote and showcase Aboriginal and Mi'kmaq people and organizations.

Measure	Outcomes Achieved
Number of public servants participating in Aboriginal training programs	OAA in collaboration with the Public Service Commission and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development offer training for public servants on Aboriginal context in Nova Scotia. This course is an important introduction for Nova Scotia government employees from across government to build their understanding of Aboriginal history, contemporary context and issues. For the year 2015-16 there were three separate training sessions held on this topic: • November 19th - 22 attendees. • February 10th - 21 attendees. • April 21st - 19 attendees. • In total 62 public servants completed Aboriginal context training in 2015. The Office of Aboriginal Affairs offers an intensive, one-day training session on The Duty to Consult with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia. The training includes a historical overview; consultation from a legal and practical perspective; explanation and application of the Nova Scotia Consultation Terms of Reference; best consultation practices; and concludes with a hands-on, practical consultation screening exercise

	on real-life cases involving consultation. For the year 2015-16 OAA offered Duty to Consult through the Public Service Commission training on two separate occasions: • May 15th - 18 attendees. • February 25th - 15 attendees. • OAA also provided department-specific consultation training for Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal in August, 2015 which was attended by 15 participants, and the Department of Municipal Affairs in September, 2015 which was attended by 18 participants. In total, there were 66 public servants trained on the Duty to Consult in 2015-16.
Number of events with an education and public awareness purpose	OAA continues to support the development of the Mi'kmaq History Month committee and programming for the annual awareness month, through strategic planning and capacity development to bolster the success of October's series of events and activities. In 2015-16 OAA took the lead on two Mi'kmaq History Month events: the first event, a night of storytelling by Mi'kmaw story teller Shalan Joudry was open to the public and took place at the Halifax Central Library on October 29th; the second, a presentation by Gerald Gloade on the 2015 Mi'kmaq History Month poster took place on October 21st and was open to all public servants. Both events were well attended and very well received. OAA also is heavily involved in planning the annual Treaty Day celebrations on October 1, including an awards ceremony that recognizes our Treaty relationship and celebrates achievements of Mi'kmaw youth and Elders. OAA is the lead for planning the award ceremony portion of the Treaty Day Events and also funds the event. OAA also provides $6000 annually to Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey for scholarships awarded on Treaty Day. OAA provides support for cultural events on a case by case basis depending on both budget availability and the objectives of the event OAA provided funding to assist the Millbrook Cultural and Heritage Centre in bringing the Witness Blanket to Millbrook. The Witness Blanket is a large scale art installation,

	made out of hundreds of items reclaimed from Residential Schools, churches, government buildings and traditional and cultural structures including from across Canada. The Witness Blanket stands as a national monument to recognize the atrocities of the Indian Residential School era, honor the children, and symbolize ongoing reconciliation. OAA staff visited the Witness Blanket installation collectively when it was in Millbrook. In 2015-16, OAA arranged to hold a staff meeting at the Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre (MNFC) in order to improve understanding of urban Aboriginal issues. MNFC staff presented to and conversed with OAA staff regarding urban issues, program offerings at the centre and identified opportunities to collaborate in the future. OAA staff visited the Nova Scotia Archives where a guided tour was provided along with a viewing of the original native and colonial treaties of the early 18th century. On June 4, 2015, OAA hosted a delegation of senior officials from the Government of Chile who wanted to learn about the Government of Nova Scotia's consultation practices and policy. In November 2015, a member of the Policy Division presented to a first year Master of Planning course at Dalhousie University on Aboriginal context in Nova Scotia, including historical context, legal landscape as well as obligations for consultation and opportunities for engagement. In March 2016, the Director of Consultation delivered a two hour lecture on consultation in Nova Scotia to a third year class of Environmental Science students at Dalhousie University.
Treaty education integrated into NS curriculum	During the Annual Treaty Day event on October 1 2015, Premier McNeil and two Mi'kmaq Chiefs signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Treaty Education between the Government of Nova Scotia and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia. Treaty Education is an inclusive term referring to the education of all citizens of Nova Scotia

	on the existence of Treaties, their importance as the foundation of relationship building between Mi'kmaw and all other Nova Scotians. The Treaty Education initiative is being led provincially by the Office of Aboriginal Affairs, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD), and Communities Culture and Heritage (CCH). OAA is working in partnership with EECD, CCH, PSC and Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey (MK) on the Treaty Education initiative. This includes supporting the work of EECD to integrate treaty education into the Nova Scotia curriculum for grades P-12. In 2015 grades P-6 were completed, with grades 7-12 implementation planned over the next two years. In addition to the signing of an MOU on Treaty Education there has been considerable progress made on the Initiative in 2015. Some of the highlights of the work so far include: • A workshop was held in Membertou to put together a list of recommendations for consideration throughout the Treaty Education Initiative. • Provincial government representatives visited treaty commissions in Saskatchewan and Manitoba to learn from best practices that can guide future work on Treaty Education. Many of the lessons learned from these commissions are planned to be put into practice in 2016-17. • Treaty Education Nova Scotia, Engage Nova Scotia and Canadians for New Partnership hosted an event called "Building Relationships through Education" that was attended by over 300 participants. Keynote speakers at the event included Assembly of First Nations' National Chief Perry Bellegarde and former Prime Minister Paul Martin. Provincial government and Mi'kmaq officials will continue to work together to develop specific Treaty Education programs and services for the education system, the provincial civil service and the broader public.
Specific feedback and exceptional items	OAA's satisfaction survey allows partners to comment on and evaluate all of OAA's

noted	core functions. When asked if they would agree that OAA increases awareness and appreciation of Mi'kmaq and Aboriginal history and culture 63% either agreed or strongly agreed, 21% responded neutral, 5% disagreed, and those remaining responded that they did not know.

6. Collaborative and respectful Aboriginal and intergovernmental relations

As a Province, our relationship with Aboriginal people is critical to build trust, understanding and cooperation on a wide array of issues, root causes and socio-economic opportunities. We strengthen this relationship through ongoing identification and coordination of cross-departmental Aboriginal issues; managing bilateral relationships with the Mi'kmaq; and fostering intergovernmental relationships with Canada and other provinces. The annual meeting between Provincial Cabinet and the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs is a significant and highly important forum for issue identification and reports on progress on areas of mutual concern. At an operational level, the seven working committees of the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum demonstrate a commitment to practical and tangible progress on issues and opportunities to improve social and economic outcomes for the Mi'kmaq, and the province as a whole.

Measure	Outcomes Achieved
Increase in the percentage of departments and agencies that are satisfied with their working relationship with Aboriginal communities and organizations	OAA staff have made an effort to create a focal point for Aboriginal economic development in Nova Scotia. This work has involved the formation of a sub-committee looking into ways the province can support economic development across Aboriginal communities. The Department of Business has presented their Private Sector Growth Plan to this group and links are being explored between this plan and the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Nation Economic Development Strategy. OAA worked closely with NSBI in 2015-16 to explore opportunities for NSBI and OAA to collaborate on work in Nova Scotia's Aboriginal communities. OAA co-ordinates a number of technical committees and working groups between the departments and the KMKNO including the environmental technical working group, the Crown lands working group, Joint Committee on Natural Resources which assists in building working relationships with the Mi'kmaq and other departments.
Specific feedback and exceptional items	OAA's satisfaction survey allows partners to comment on and evaluate all of OAA's core

noted	functions. When asked if they would agree that OAA promotes collaborative and respectful Aboriginal and Intergovernmental relations 100% either agreed or strongly agreed. In June 2015, the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs met with Executive Council for the sixth time to discuss issues of mutual importance. OAA coordinated this meeting with the Assembly, as well as across all provincial departments, to ensure that the relationship between the Assembly portfolio leads and Cabinet Ministers would be strengthened and lead to productive discussion. OAA continued to work collaboratively with the NS Advisory Council on the Status of Women and the NS Department of Justice to advance key outcomes of the July 2015 Council of the Federation meeting with National Aboriginal Organization leaders, including: a commitment to support a national roundtable discussion on the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women. The second National Roundtable on Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) was held in February 2016 in Winnipeg, MB. Nova Scotia supported the attendance of two MMIWG family members as well as a representative from the NS Native Women's Association and the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre. OAA continues to coordinate and support interdepartmental discussions as well as engage with Nova Scotian Mi'kmaq women's organizations and leaders to advance collaborative work and joint initiatives such as the sexual violence strategy. OAA remained engaged with the national Aboriginal Affairs Working Group (AAWG), and participated in the May 2015 meeting held in Yellowknife, NT. NS continued to co-chair with BC and the Native Women's Association of Canada, the Ending Violence Against Aboriginal Women and Girls working group. In response to the federal government's commitment to engage with the AAWG, members developed a draft terms of reference to guide the work and future direction of a new Federal, Provincial, Territorial, Indigenous Forum (FPTIF).
Increase in the % of departments and	Departments and partner organizations satisfaction with the advice and support of OAA

agencies who agree that OAA effectively represents the interests of Nova Scotians	is measured in a periodic satisfaction survey which allows respondents to evaluate and comment on all of our core services. 19 partners responded to the statement that OAA promotes collaborative and respectful Aboriginal intergovernmental relations. 6 strongly agreed with this statement while the remaining 13 agreed.

Public Interest and Wrongdoing Act

The Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act was proclaimed into law on December 20, 2011.

The Act provides for government employees to be able to come forward if they reasonably believe that a wrongdoing has been committed or is about to be committed and they are acting in good faith.

The Act also protects employees who do disclose from reprisals, by enabling them to lay a complaint of reprisal with the Labour Board.

A Wrongdoing for the purposes of the Act is:

- a contravention of Provincial or Federal laws or regulations;
- a misuse or gross mismanagement of public funds or assets;
- an act or omission that creates an imminent risk of a substantial and specific danger to the life, health or safety of persons or the environment; or
- directing or counseling someone to commit a wrongdoing.

The following is a summary of disclosures received by the Office of Aboriginal Affairs.

Information Required under Section 18 of the Act	Fiscal Year 2015-2016
The number of disclosures received	0
The number of findings of wrongdoing	0
Details of each wrongdoing (insert separate row for each wrongdoing)	N/A
Recommendations and actions taken on each wrongdoing (insert separate row for each wrongdoing)	N/A

Supplemental Information and Appendices

On Monday, June 8, 2015 the Office of Aboriginal Affairs circulated a satisfaction survey for performance feedback. The survey was uploaded online and a link was provided to via email to key provincial colleagues. The following are the results of the feedback received.

The Mission of the Office of Aboriginal Affairs (OAA) is to 'lead Nova Scotia in Aboriginal Affairs by building mutual understanding, respect and a lasting relationship.' To achieve this, we provide a coordinated approach to negotiations and related discussions, Aboriginal and intergovernmental relations, policy analysis and strategic advice, and communication and education.

The Mandate of the Office of Aboriginal Affairs is to promote a coordinated approach within government on matters related to Aboriginal people, represent the interests of the Province in intergovernmental, multilateral initiatives and negotiations, and provide research, analysis and policy advice to government on Aboriginal issues.

Responses are by individuals not organizations.

Chart 1.0: **Does the mission and mandate reflect your understanding of the role of OAA?**

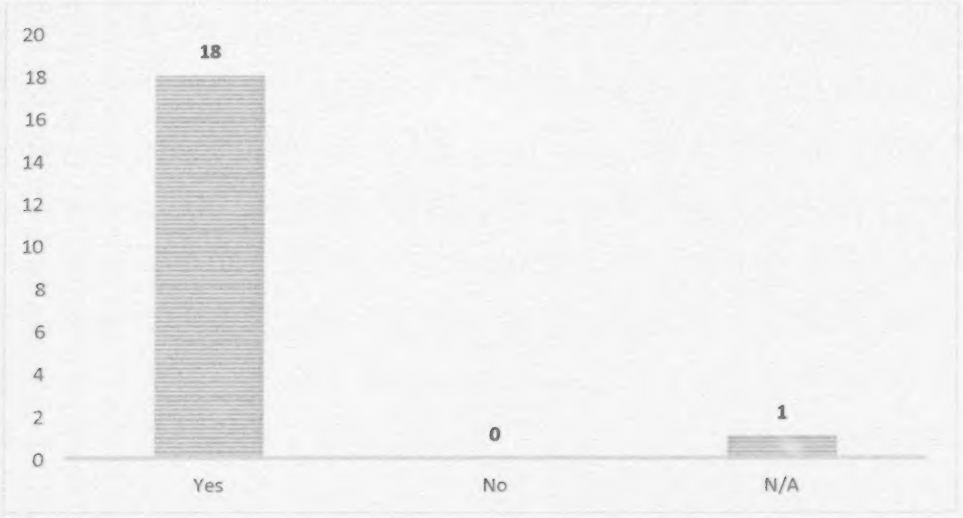
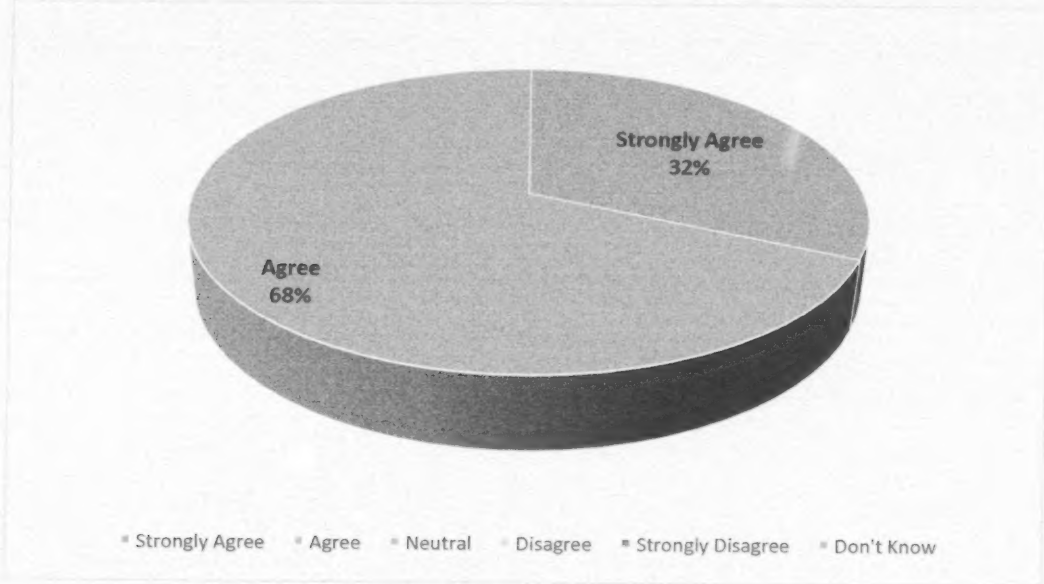
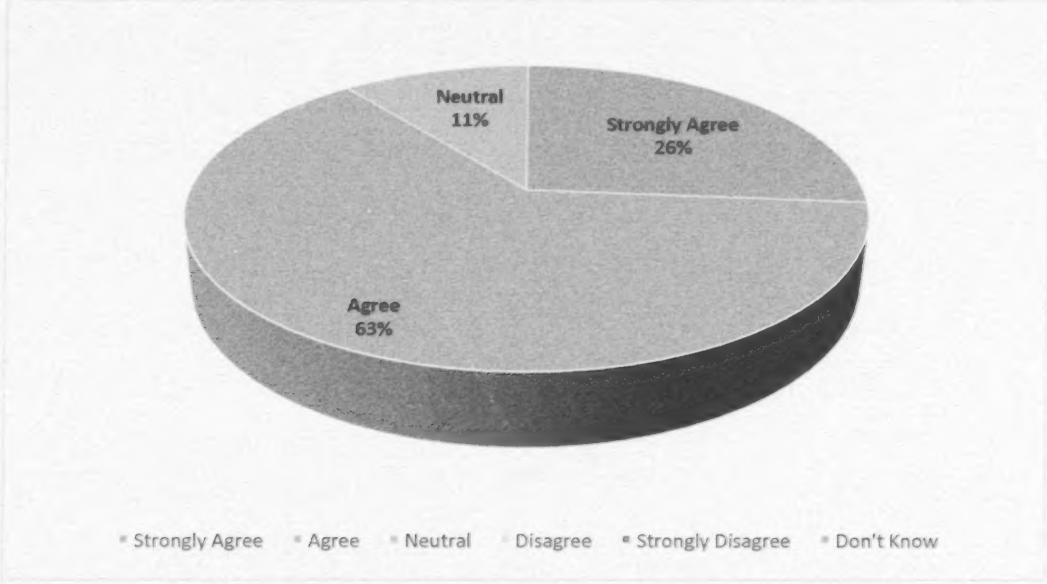


Chart 2.0: **OAA promotes collaborative and respectful Aboriginal and Intergovernmental relations**



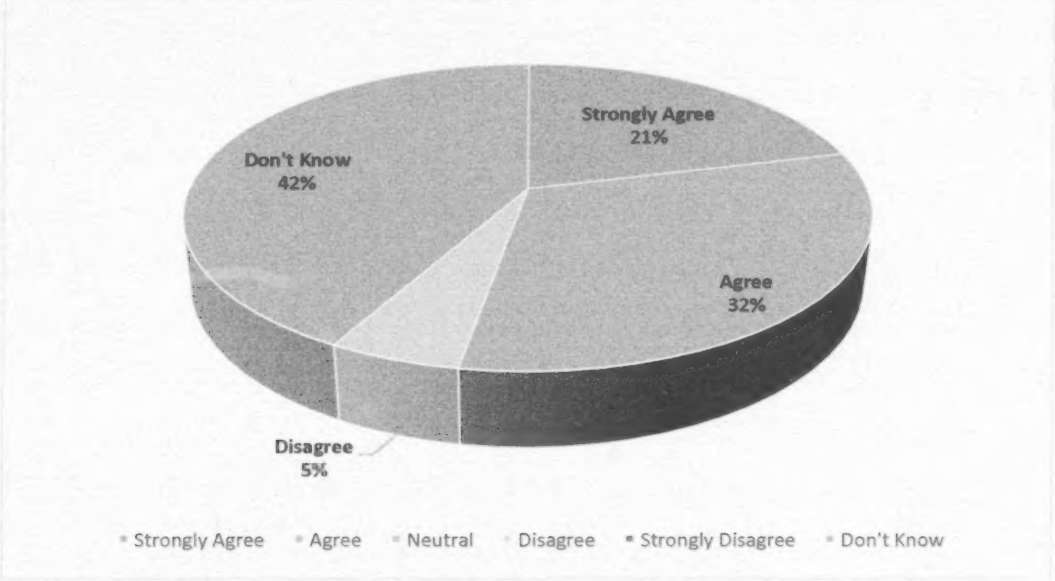
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know/No Opinion	Response Total
OAA promotes collaborative and respectful Aboriginal and Intergovernmental relations	6	13	0	0	0	0	19

Chart 3.0: **OAA facilitates and supports effective coordination and strategic policy advice to the Nova Scotia government**



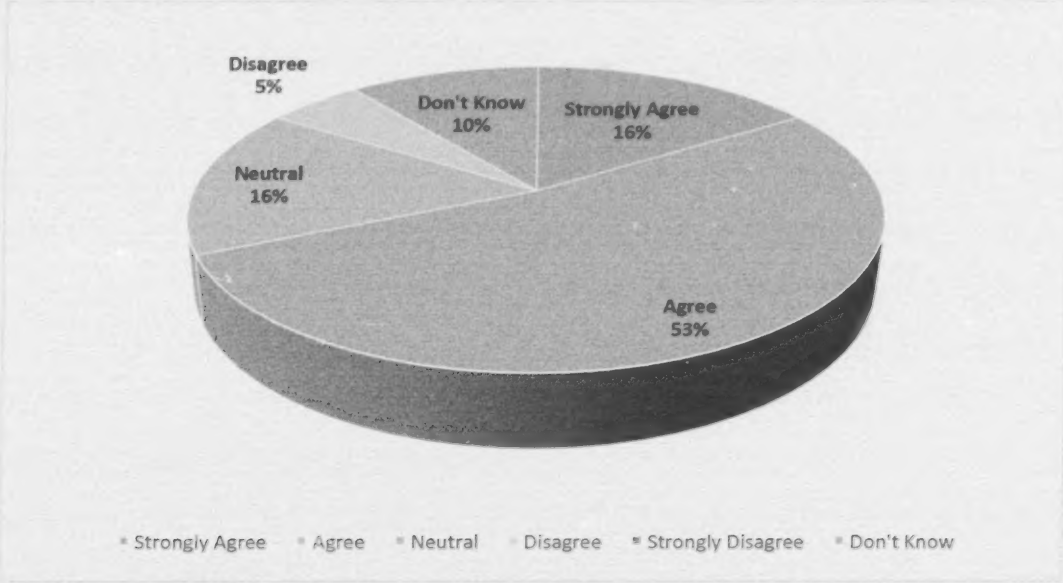
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know/No Opinion	Response Total
OAA facilitates and supports effective coordination and strategic policy advice to the Nova Scotia government	5	12	2	0	0	0	19

Chart 4: **OAA promotes a positive and productive relationship through Main Table Negotiations with Canada and the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq**



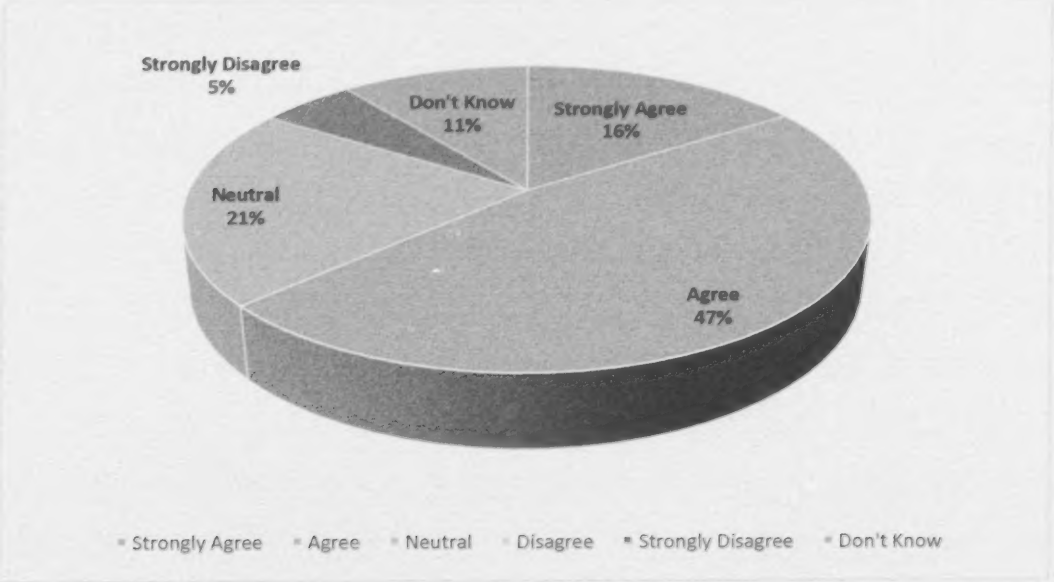
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know/No Opinion	Response Total
OAA promotes a positive and productive relationship through Main Table Negotiations with Canada and the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq	4	6	0	1	0	8	19

Chart 5: **OAA supports a coordinated approach to consultation to ensure government meets its legal obligations**



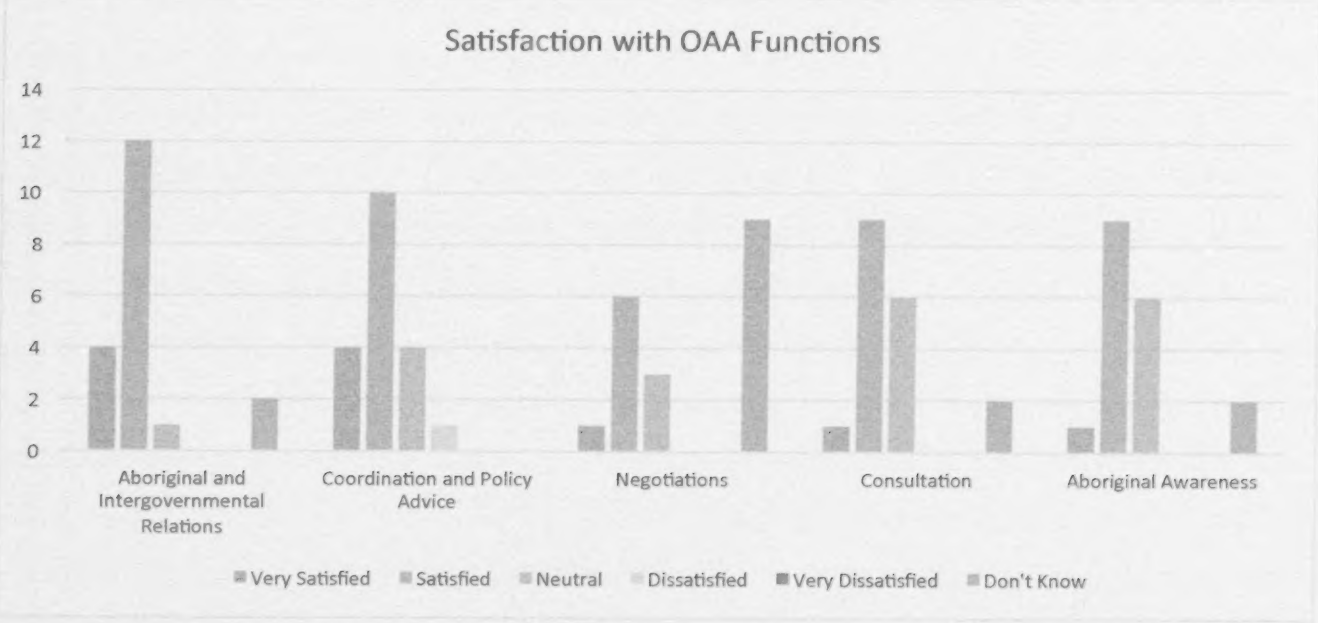
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know/No Opinion	Response Total
OAA supports a coordinated approach to consultation to ensure government meets its legal obligations	3	10	3	1	0	2	19

Chart 6: **OAA increases awareness and appreciation of Mi'kmaq and Aboriginal history and culture**



	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know/No Opinion	Response Total
OAA increases awareness and appreciation of Mi'kmaq and Aboriginal history and culture	3	9	4	0	1	2	19

Chart 7: **Based on your experience with OAA, how satisfied are you with the functions provided by OAA? If the statement presented does not relate to the area(s) of involvement with OAA, please indicate 'No Opinion'.**



	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Don't Know/No Opinion
Aboriginal & intergovernmental relations	4	12	1	0	0	2
Coordination and Policy Advice	4	10	4	1	0	0
Negotiations	1	6	3	0	0	9
Consultations	3	11	3	0	0	2
Aboriginal Awareness and Education	1	9	6	0	0	2